THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-Payment of dividends to Investors by LIC

1227. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about non-payment of dividends to the investors under the "LIC Mutual Fund Dhanasahayog Plan-B";

(b) if so, action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interest of the investors in such other funds also?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Traders

1228. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign exchange traders in the country State-wise;

(b) whether all such traders have got licences from the Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are 96 banks and other institutions holding fullfledged licences and 7 holding restricted licences. State-wise details are furnished in Statement enclosed.

(b) The banks/certain financial institutions are issued licences to deal in foreign exchange business by Reserve Bank of India.

(c) Question does not arise.

STATEMENT

State-wise details of the Foreign Exchange Dealers

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Dealers
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Delhi	6
3.	Gujarat	2
4.	Haryana	1
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
6.	Karnataka	6
7.	Kerala	6
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2
9.	Maharashtra	61
10.	Rajasthan	1
11.	Tamil Nadu	10
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1
13.	West Bengal	5

[English]

Transport facilities to Wheat and Rice Exporters

1229. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of wheat and rice from the country has received severe setback recently because these commodities could not be transported to the ports for their timely shipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have worked out the losses suffered by the country in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure the timely export of wheat and rice from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. The exports of wheat and rice during the current year upto September, 1996 were as under:-

Commodity	Quantity (in MTs)	Value (in Rs. Crores)
Basmati Rice	249043	554.16
Non-Basmati Rice	1108766	1051.67
Wheat	1078653	668.99

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(b) to (e). Some of the steps taken to ensure timely exports of wheat and rice, inter-alia, include :-

(i) Priority being accorded by the railways to the exporters for wagon allocation.

(ii) Berthing policy at Kandla Port has been formulated so as to ensure timely shipment of export consignments of wheat and rice.